

A NEW SPECIES OF *MICROJASSA* (AMPHIPODA)
FROM LOS ANGELES HARBOR*

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In the course of studying amphipods which settle on submerged wooden test blocks in Los Angeles Harbor, California, specimens of a very small species, new to science, were isolated. This is the third species of the genus *Microjassa* to be discovered. The others are *M. cumbrensis* (Stebbing and Robertson, 1891, p. 38), from England and France, and *M. macrocoxa* Shoemaker (1942, p. 44), from Lower California. This genus is quite remarkable in its general resemblance to members of the family Photidae but the structure of the antennae and third uropods places it in the family Ischyroceridae.

Microjassa litotes, new species
(Plates 35 and 36)

DESCRIPTION OF MALE.—Head with lateral lobes subacute, eyes large, lower part of head deeply incised at base of second antenna.

Antennae rather stout, equal in length. Mouthparts figured: upper lip bilobed; palp article 3 of mandible short, blunt, strongly setose; inner plate of first maxilla small, slender, coniform, unarmed; palp article 4 of maxilliped with 2-4 short, setal spines.

Gnathopod 1: article 5 short, produced behind into a setose lobe, article 6 with oblique palm, posterior edge short, palm defined by 2 spines, article 7 long, curved, fitting palm.

Gnathopod 2: article 5 very small, not produced behind, article 6 very large, anterior edge produced into a short lobe bearing 2 spines; palm very oblique in adult, not defined from posterior margin of article 6, near base of article 7 produced into a subconical, setose lobe; article 7 longer than palm. In juvenile males the palm is shorter, with the posterior limit defined by a spine; the process of the palm is poorly developed and article 7 is shorter than the palm.

Coxae 1-3 with parallel edges, coxa 4 excavated behind, coxae 5-7 similar in size and much smaller than coxa 4.

Peraeopods 3-5 short but successively slightly longer, article 2 dilated and slightly lobed at posterodistal corner.

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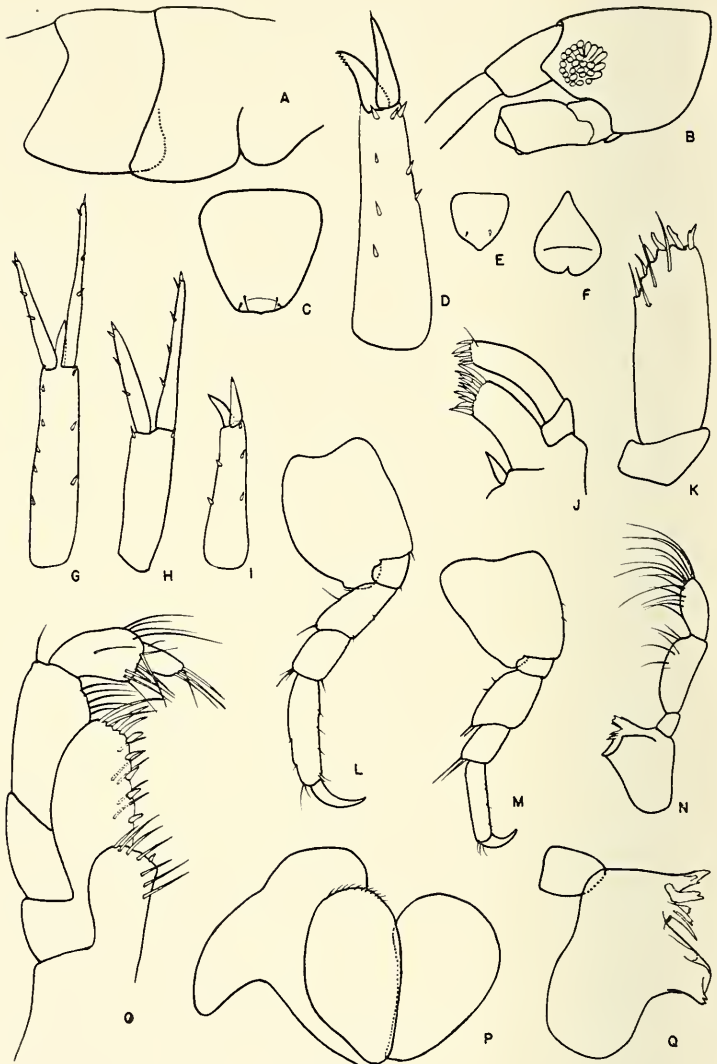


PLATE 35

Microjassa litotes, n. sp.

Male, 2.5 mm. Fig. a, pleon segments 1-3, right; b, head; c, telson, dorsal; d, uropod 3, enlarged; f, upper lip; g, uropod 1; h, uropod 2; i, uropod 3; j, maxilla 1; k, palp of maxilla 1, enlarged; l, peraeopod 5; n, mandible; o, maxilliped; p, part of lower lip; q, body of mandible.

Female, 2.5 mm. Fig. e, telson, posterodorsal view; m, peraeopod 3.

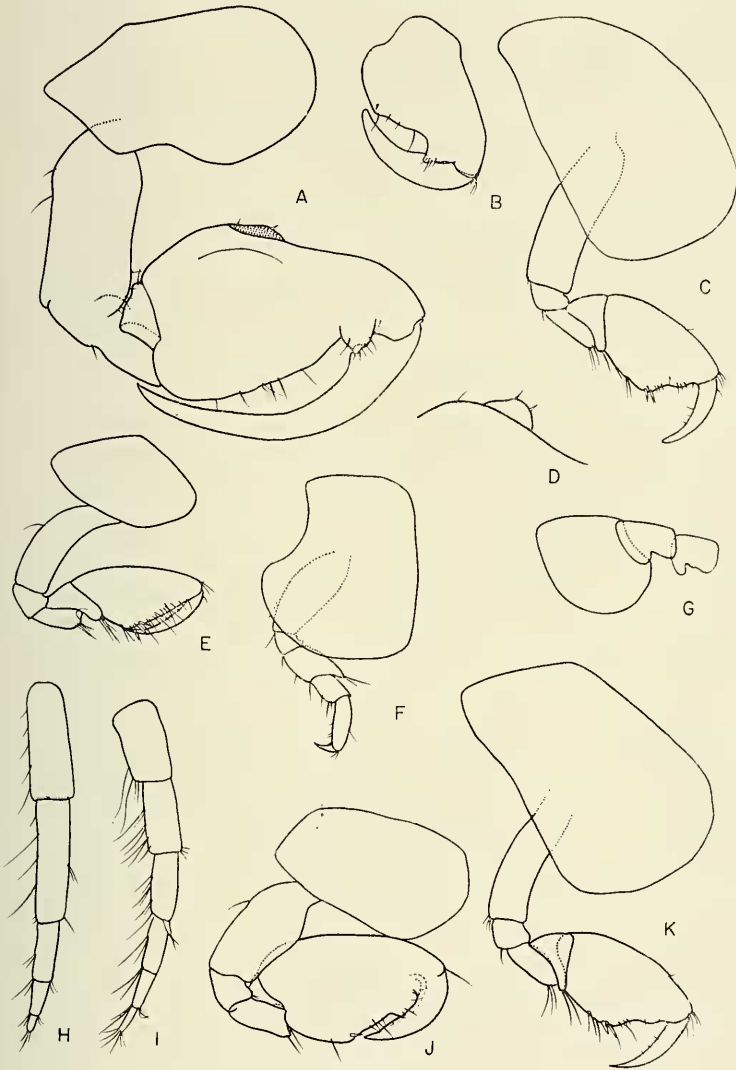


PLATE 36

Microjassa litotes, n.sp.

Male, 2.5 mm. Fig. a, gnathopod 2; c, gnathopod 1; g, coxae 4-6, left; h, antenna 2; i, antenna 1.

Male, 1.5 mm. Fig. b, gnathopod 2, articles 6, 7.

Male, 3.0 mm. Fig. d, lobe on anterior surface of gnathopod 2, article 6.

Male, 1.0 mm. Fig. e, gnathopod 1; j, gnathopod 2.

Female, 2.5 mm. Fig. f, peraeopod 2; k, gnathopod 2.

Uropods 1-2: inner rami shorter than outer, ventrodistal edge of peduncle of first uropod attenuated.

Uropod 3: peduncle long, rami very short, subequal in size, outer ramus slightly curved outward, armed along distal edge with 3-5 minute processes, inner ramus armed with a short, apical setule.

Telson entire, from dorsal view apex blunt, from posterior oblique view apex is subconical.

FEMALE.—Gnathopods 1-2 small, similar in size, gnathopod 2 slightly larger; article 5 with posterior setose lobe, palm of article 6 oblique, slightly sinuous, defined by 2 spines, article 7 longer than palm.

HOLOTYPE.—AHF No. 509, male, 3 mm.

TYPE LOCALITY.—Station L-2-550, Southern California Marine Borer Council Survey, Cabrillo Beach, outer harbor, San Pedro, California (Los Angeles Harbor), from a wooden block submerged for 28 days, April 28, 1950.

MATERIAL EXAMINED.—Stations L-2-550 (2); L-3-550 (1); M-2-550 (1); M-3-550 (8); N-3-450 (8). These stations were all in the outer harbor at Los Angeles. The animals were obtained from submerged wooden test blocks exposed for 28 day periods at depths of 10 or 20 feet below mean low water during the months of March and April, 1950.

REMARKS.—This species differs from *Microjassa cumbrensis* by the lack of a proximal palmar process on the male second gnathopod and the anterior process on article 6. The second gnathopods of young males are very similar to young *M. cumbrensis*.

Among many differences the new species differs from *M. macrocoxa* principally by the subequal antennae and the configuration of article 6 of the male second gnathopod.

The new specific name refers to the plainness of the palm of the second gnathopods in the male.

LITERATURE CITED

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Stebbing, T. R. R., and D. Robertson

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